

DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS



3rd April

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Playlist Link:

What to Read: <https://bit.ly/3FYdutC>

Daily News Analysis: <https://bit.ly/4ge9BgF>

1. MANUFACTURING SECTOR GROWTH

Relevance: Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth (GS 3)

Backdrop: Manufacturing activity in India, as measured by the seasonally adjusted Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), reached an eight-month high of 58.1 in March 2025, according to an S&P Global statement.

About PMI

- Survey-Based Measure : Respondents report changes in their perception of key business variables compared to the previous month.

- The PMI is calculated as follows:

$$PMI = (P1 * 1) + (P2 * 0.5) + (P3 * 0)$$

Where:

P1 = percentage of answers reporting an improvement

P2 = percentage of answers reporting no change

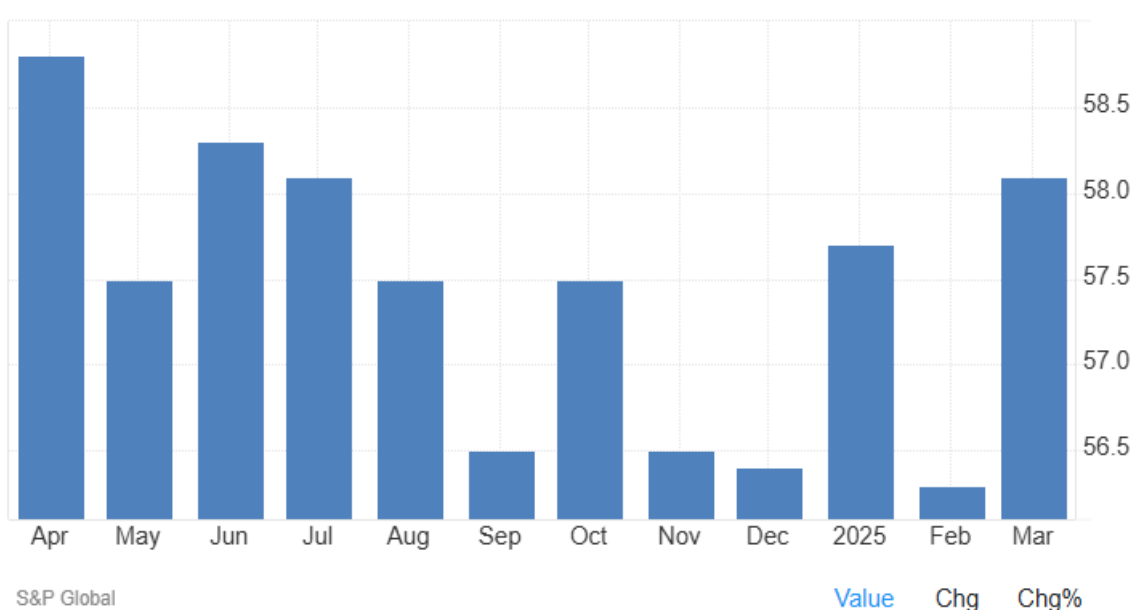
P3 = percentage of answers reporting a deterioration

- PMI is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors,
- A composite index is also created using a Scale (0 to 100)



- Published at the start of each month
- It provides insights into current and future business conditions, helping company decision-makers, analysts, and investors.

PMI Data Trend in Last 1 year

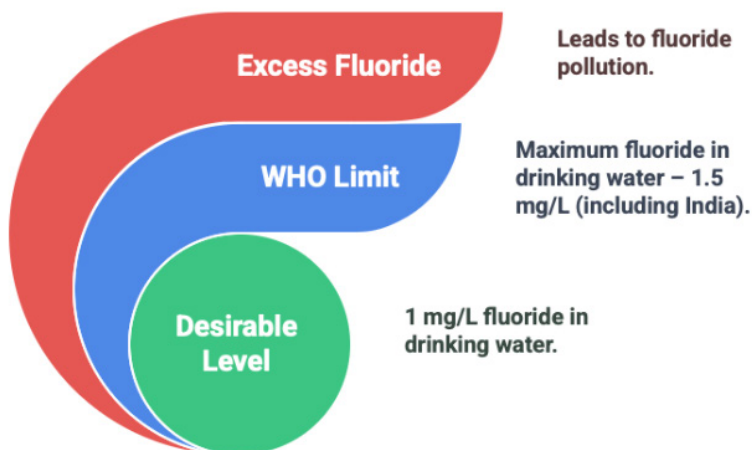


2. FLUORIDE POLLUTION

Relevance: Environmental Pollution and Degradation (GS 3), General issues on Environmental ecology(Prelims)

Backdrop: New government report on 'excess fluoride' in Sonbhadra's groundwater, its residents say they are getting sicker.

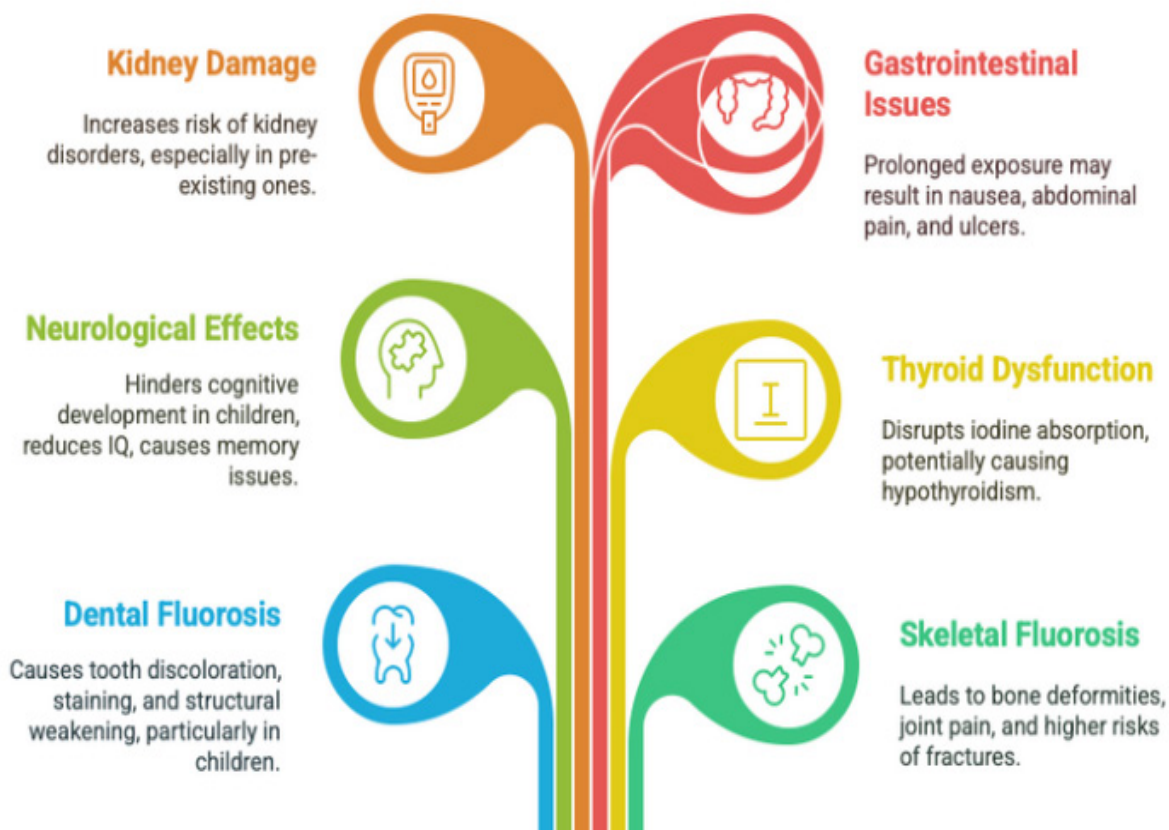
What is fluoride pollution?



Reasons for Fluoride pollution

- Found naturally in groundwater, and the main source is Earth's crust.
- It also enters the water by leaching and dissolution of fluoride-bearing minerals in underground aquifers.

Impact of Fluoride Pollution on Health



Other Groundwater pollutants

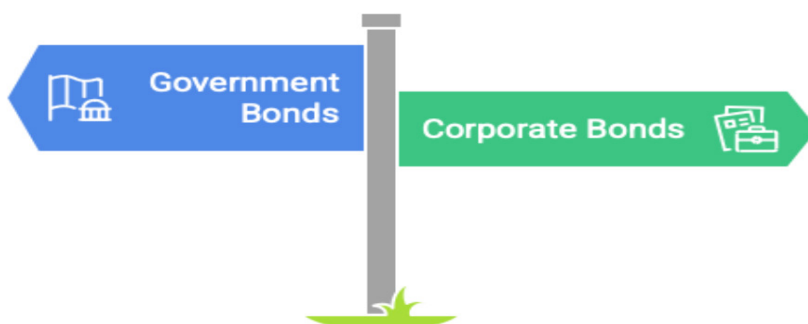
Contaminant	Affected Regions	Health Impact
Arsenic	West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh (90% cases)	Toxicity, cancer risk
Uranium	~12 states (notably Punjab)	Kidney damage, bone toxicity
Iron	Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Assam	Anemia, organ damage
Other Elements	Various states (Antimony, Cadmium, Copper, Barium)	Hypertension, liver & kidney damage

3. BOND YIELD

Relevance : GS 3 Economy

Backdrop : India's benchmark 10-year bond yields fell sharply by nine basis points (bps) to 6.49 per cent year-on-year after the central bank announced it would buy Rs 80,000 crore worth of bonds in April.

Bonds



What is Bond Yield ?

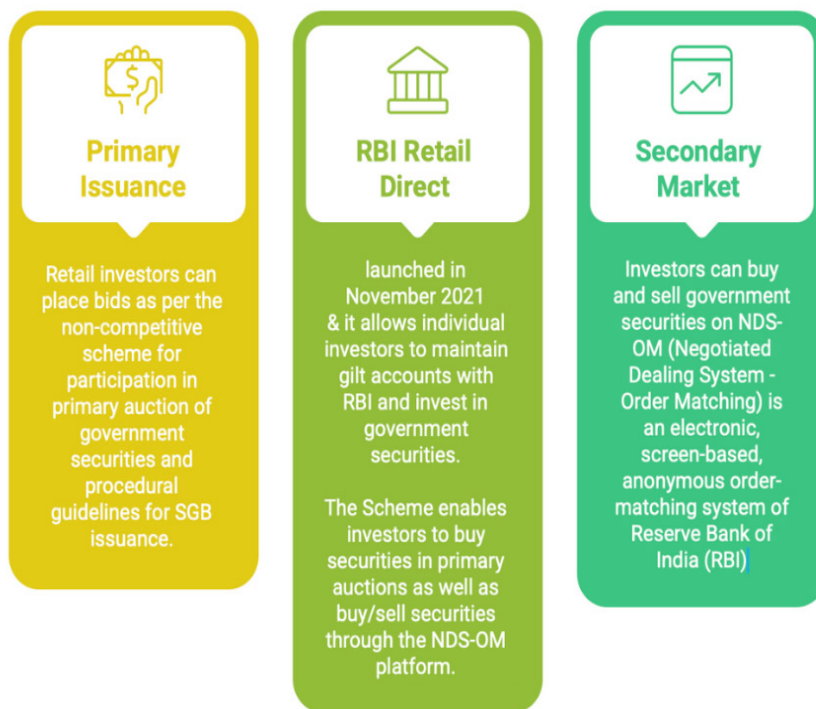
- A bond's yield is the return an investor expects to receive each year over its term to maturity.
- **Bond vs Loan**
 - Bond can be traded with other investors in a financial market.



Bond market consists of primarily two segments:

- Government Bonds regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Corporate Bonds regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Investments in Government securities



4. KATCHATHEEVU

Relevance : GS 1 Geography and GS 2 International Relations

Backdrop : TN Assembly passes resolution to reclaim Katchatheevu Island from Sri Lanka

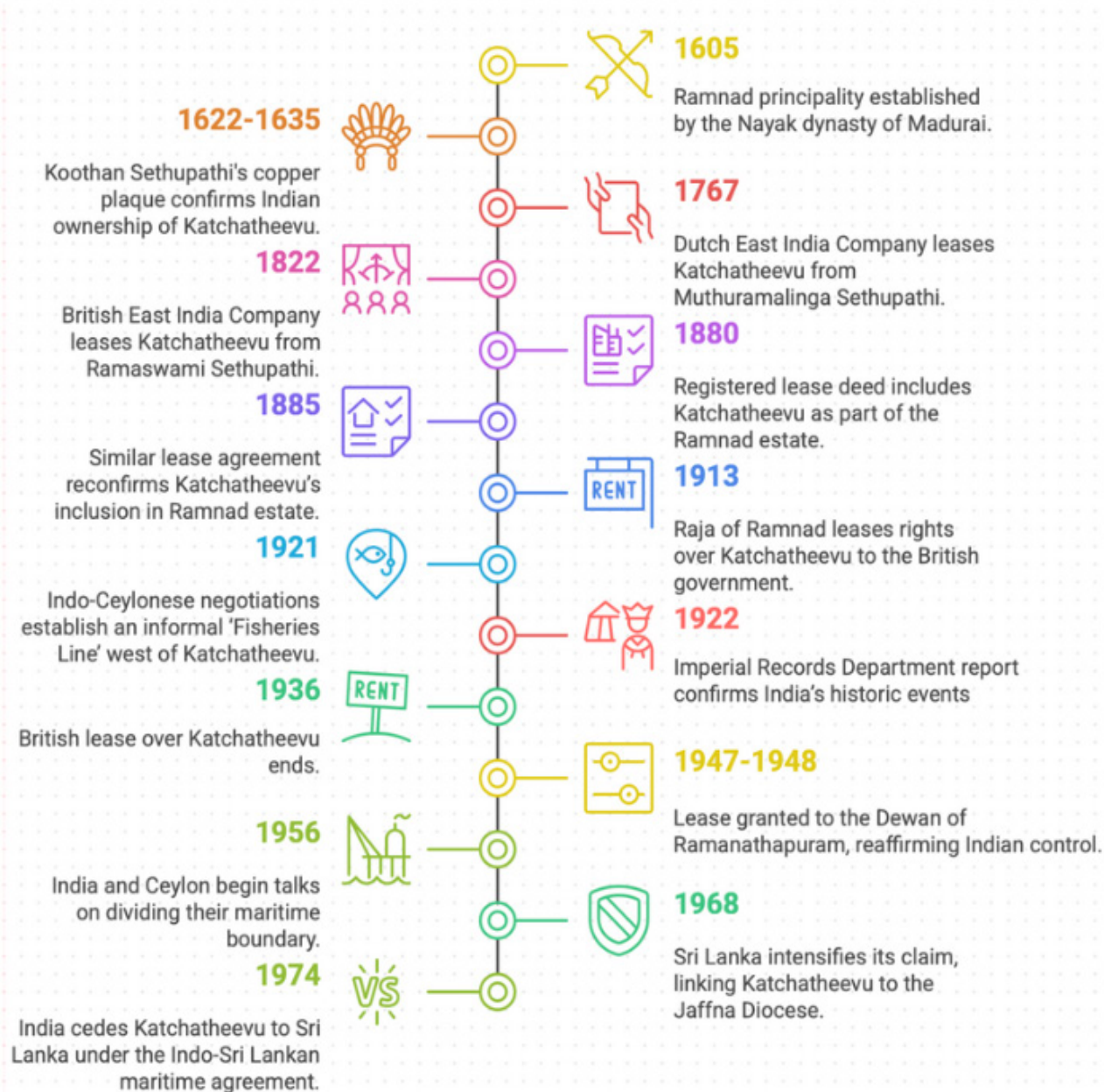
Katchatheevu

Katchatheevu is an uninhabited island located about ten miles North-East of Rameswaram on the Indian side and Nine miles south of Delft Island on the Sri Lankan side.

'BALANCING CLAIM VS BILATERAL TIES'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In 1961, Pandit Nehru said he would not hesitate in giving up claims to Katchatheevu ➤ This despite attorney gen M C Setalvad opining in 1960 that despite contradicting claims, India's case was stronger than Lanka's ➤ Rights over island, including fishery and other resources, enjoyed 'continuously and uninterruptedly' from 1875 to 1948 by Raja of Ramnad ➤ Following oppn pressure in 1968, Indira govt said India's claim had to be balanced with need for good bilateral ties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In 1974, govt's decision to relinquish India's claim conveyed to CM Karunanidhi ➤ Foreign secy said Sri Lanka had records to push its claim while State of Madras failed to show Raja of Ramnad had original title
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Timeline of Katchatheevu



When did Katchatheevu become a part of Sri Lanka?

- June 26-28, 1974 - India-Sri Lanka boundary agreement signed between **Indira Gandhi** and **Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike**.
- It Demarcated the boundary from **Palk Strait to Adam's Bridge**. The boundary lies **one mile west of uninhabited Katchatheevu**.
- **Joint Statement (June 28, 1974)**: Defined the boundary based on **historical evidence, legal principles, and precedents**.

Union Government's Stand on Katchatheevu:

- August 2013: The government informed the Supreme Court that retrieving Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka did not arise, as no Indian territory was ceded. Stated that Katchatheevu was a disputed area between British India and Ceylon, and the boundary issue was settled in the 1974 and 1976 agreements.
- December 2022: In a Rajya Sabha reply, the government reaffirmed that Katchatheevu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line. Noted that the matter remained sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

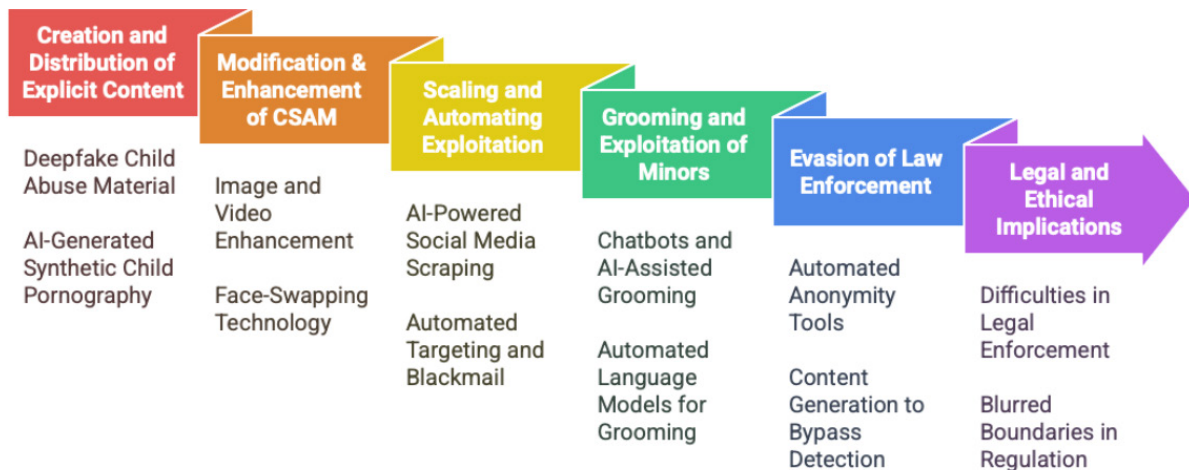
Berubari Union Case 1960

Constitutional Amendment	Related To
Ninth Amendment Act, 1960	Implemented the 1958 Nehru-Noon Agreement, allowing the division of Berubari between India and Pakistan. The Supreme Court ruled that ceding Indian territory requires a constitutional amendment under Article 368.
One Hundredth Amendment Act, 2015	Ratified the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, facilitating the exchange of 162 enclaves (111 to Bangladesh, 51 to India) as per the 1974 agreement and 2011 protocol.

5. DIGITAL CHILD ABUSE

Relevance: Vulnerable sections (GS1 and GS 2)

Backdrop: The International AI Safety Report 2025

Misuse of AI tools in CSAM**Legal Framework to fight against CSAM**

- **The Protection of Children Act 1978** criminalises taking, distributing, and possessing an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child.
- **The Coroners and Justice Act 2009** criminalises the possession of a prohibited image of a child, including non-photographic materials
- **United Kingdom's Upcoming Law (2025):** Criminalizes the possession, creation, and use of AI tools to generate CSAM.

Other mechanisms

- **India's IT Act and U.S. EARN IT Act** holds tech companies accountable for failing to prevent CSAM dissemination.
- **Google & Microsoft AI Policies:** Blocking AI from generating realistic images of minors to curb deepfake CSAM.

warns about AI's role in generating and distributing CSAM, while the NCRP Report (April 2024) records 1.94 lakh child pornography cases under the CCPWC scheme in India.

Key Findings on AI and CSAM

- **AI-Powered CSAM Threat** (*International AI Safety Report 2025*) - Warns of the **increased risk** of AI being used to **generate, possess, and distribute CSAM**. **Rising Child Pornography Cases in India** (*NCRP Report, April 2024*)
 - ♦ **1.94 lakh incidents** of child pornography recorded by the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** under the **CCPWC** scheme.

- **Parental Guidance on AI Risks:** Digital literacy programs to help parents monitor children's online activity and interactions.
- **WePROTECT Global Alliance:** International coalition working to stop online child exploitation and AI-facilitated CSAM.

Legal framework to check Child Pornography In India**Section 67B, IT Act 2000**

- **Punishes publishing/transmitting sexually explicit content involving children in electronic form.**
- **First conviction: Up to 5 years imprisonment and ₹10 lakh fine.**
- **Subsequent conviction: Up to 7 years imprisonment and ₹10 lakh fine.**

Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita

Section	Provision	Key Details
Section 294	Obscene Material Distribution	Penalizes the sale, distribution, or public exhibition of obscene materials.
Section 295	Obscene Content & Children	Criminalizes the sale, distribution, or exhibition of obscene objects to children.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)

Section	Provision	Key Details
Section 11(vi)	Cyber Grooming	Defines sexual harassment of a child with sexual intent for pornography or gratification.
Section 13	Use of Children for Pornography	Prohibits using children in any form of pornography.
Section 14	Storage of Child Pornography	Criminalizes storing, possessing, or circulating child pornographic material.
Section 15	Sexual Gratification	Bans using a child for sexual gratification, even if not directly involved in pornography.
Section 19	Mandatory Reporting of Offences	Requires any person, including a child, to report offences to the Special Juvenile Police Unit or local police.
Section 20	Obligation on Entities to Report	Mandates media, studios, and photographic facilities to report all cases of online child sexual abuse.

Suggested measures

NHRC Recommendations (October 2023) on Combating CSAM

- Expand Definition under POCSO Act: Replace 'child pornography' with 'Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)' for broader legal coverage.
- Clarify 'Sexually Explicit' under IT Act: Define the term in Section 67B to improve real-time identification and blocking of CSAM.
- Include More Entities under IT Act: Extend the definition of 'intermediary' to cover VPNs, Virtual Private Servers, and Cloud Services, making them legally accountable for CSAM compliance.

- Address Emerging Tech Risks: Amend laws to tackle threats from new technologies.

Other Recommendations

- **Adopt UN Draft Convention**
 - ♦ Support the UN Draft Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technology for Criminal Purposes to strengthen global efforts against CSAM.
- **Implement Digital India Act**
 - ♦ The proposed Digital India Act 2023 should replace the outdated IT Act and include provisions targeting AI-generated CSAM, taking inspiration from U.K. legislation.

== PRACTICE QUESTION ==

- Q.** The emergence of AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) presents new challenges in regulation and law enforcement. Examine these challenges and recommend legislative and policy measures to strengthen India's response. *(250 Words, 15 Marks)*

== DNA QUIZ ==

- Q1.** Consider the following statements regarding Purchasing Manufacturer's Index (PMI):
1. Higher Value in PMI is indicative of Economic contraction.
 2. It is published every month by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- [A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 and 2

- Q2.** Which of the following can be found as pollutants in the drinking water in some parts of India?
1. Arsenic
 2. Sorbitol
 3. Fluoride
 4. Formaldehyde
 5. Uranium

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- [a] 1 and 3 only
[b] 2, 4 and 5 only
[c] 1, 3 and 5 only
[d] 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

- Q3.** Consider the following statements regarding Fluoride Pollution in drinking water:

1. There is no safe limit for fluoride pollution.
2. Industrial waste is the main source for Fluoride pollution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [a] Only 1
[b] Only 2
[c] Both 1 and 2
[d] Neither 1 nor 2

- Q4.** Indian Government Bond Yields are influenced by which of the following?

1. Actions of the United States Federal Reserve
2. Actions of the Reserve Bank of India
3. Inflation and short-term interest rates

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- [a] 1 and 2 only
[b] 2 only
[c] 3 only
[d] 1, 2 and 3

- Q5.** Consider the following statement

1. Katchetheevu Island is a disputed territory between India and Sri Lanka
2. Berubari union case paved way for 9th constitutional Amendment Act.

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

- [a] 1 Only
[b] 2 Only
[c] Both 1 and 2
[d] Neither 1 nor 2

Answers

Q.1 (d)	Q.2 (c)	Q.3 (d)	Q.4 (d)	Q.5 (c)
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